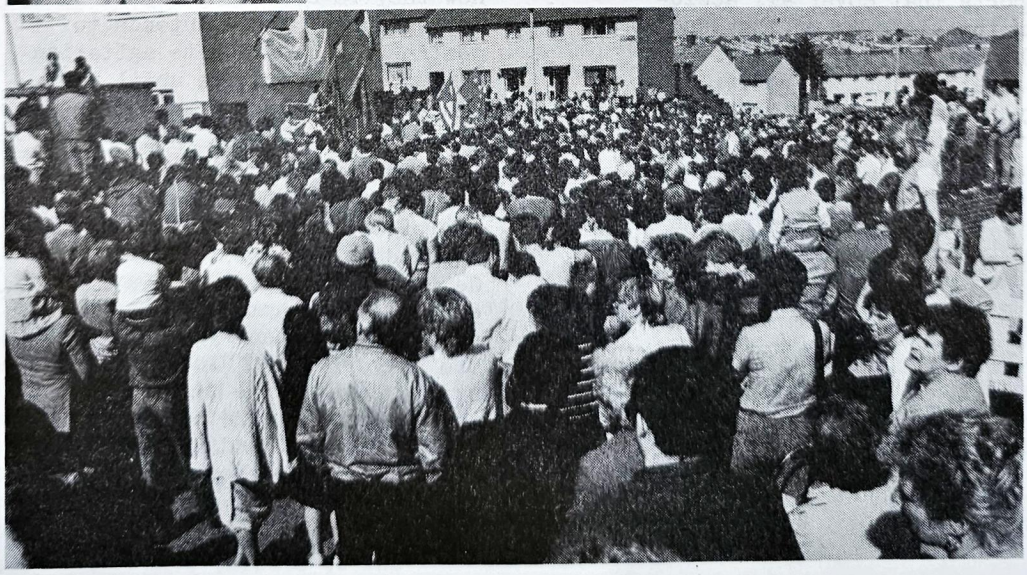
resource

UPPER SPRINGFIELD RESOURCE CENTRE Whiterock Road, Belfast Price 20p

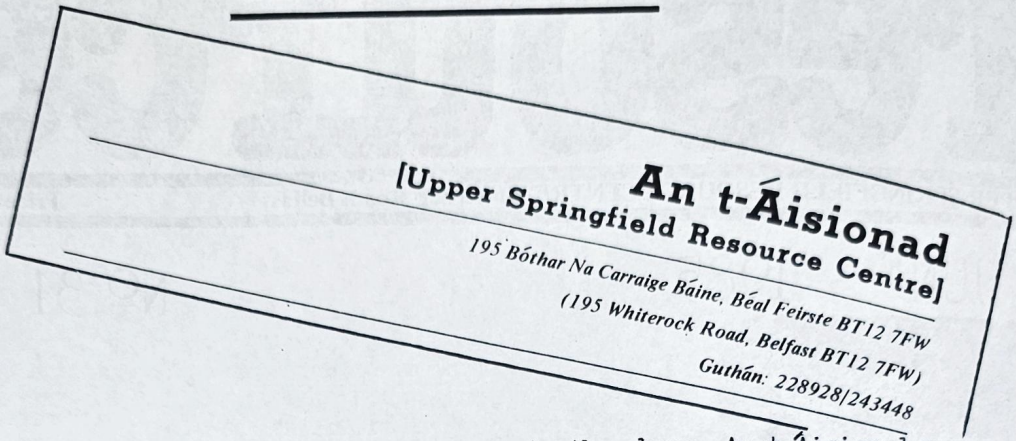
JUNE 1985 № 31

IN MEMORY

OF THE DEAD



An t-Áisionad


An t-Áisionad
[Upper Springfield Resource Centre]
195 Bóthar Na Carraige Báine, Béal Feirste BT12 7FW
(195 Whiterock Road, Belfast BT12 7FW)
Guthán: 228928/243448

The Resource Centre, which will henceforth be known as An t-Áisionad, has gone bi-lingual. We have scrapped our old headed notepaper (which was pretty soulless anyway) and changed to the above. An t-Áisionad means simply 'The Resource Centre, which is our own subtle way of claiming the title all for ourselves. Let those with counter claims beware..!

Since our last issue of RESOURCE, we have been contacted by the Department of The Environment in relation to the representations made for traffic lights to be installed at the junction of Springfield and Whiterock Roads.

The DoE says that they are now looking sympathetically at our request, but will first have to go through the reports that cover all accidents in the vicinity of the junction over the past number of years. Representatives of the DoE will shortly be visiting the area to do an on-the-spot assessment of the dangers posed by the junction and the speed with which vehicles travel down the Springfield Road in the absence of any controls to slow them down.

* * *

At the beginning of June an open letter, signed by 26 community activists, was sent to the N.I. Housing Executive accusing them of incompetence and neglect over their non-payment of the £70 Disturbance Grants to tenants who had to suffer the long months of refurbishing in both Ballymurphy and New Barnsley. Although the work was completed more than a year ago, the dispute still goes on. Many people are under the impression that the Housing Executive, thinking that nobody would know about the grants, simply did not allocate any money for them in their refurbishing budget. And now they've been caught on the hop. The Resource Centre intends to continue to co-ordinate agitation against the Executive until the money is paid up.

* * *

Sal Brennan and Ann-Marie Maguire are off to Berlin for two weeks as representatives of the Resource Centre. They are taking part in an exchange programme that has been operating for many years through the University of Ulster at Jordanstown. This is the first time that the Resource Centre has participated, and we wish Sal and Ann-Marie the best of luck as they wander the rounds of Berlin's all night pubs and discos.

Fighting Local Issues.

IN MEMORY OF THE DEAD

West Belfast MP Gerry Adams addressing the large crowd after unveiling the plaque

On Sunday 12th May, Gerry Adams MP unveiled a plaque in the centre of Ballymurphy to commemorate the volunteers from the area who have lost their lives in the present phase of the war against British imperialism in Ireland. It was the culmination of a week-end of remembering that began on Friday night when the families of the dead volunteers received their own special tokens of remembrance at a social evening in the area.

Overall, it was a sad affair for the community, especially for the relatives who have lost their kin. There were few in Friday night's colour party who didn't shed a tear, silently or openly. It is difficult to watch a young child walk through a hall full of people with tears in his eyes and a precious glass plate clutched to his chest without sharing in the grief of that family. Yet, the emotion was restrained and dignified. And beneath it was the great pride of a people who had got up off their knees with a vengeance and a determination that never again would those knees bend.

Gerry Adams gave tribute to the men and women who were foremost in everyone's thoughts. Little anecdotes brought laughter as well as sorrow, and there was a general feeling of a togetherness in outwardly expressing a communal sense of loss.

Sunday's unveiling was less sombre, with bright sunshine raising everone's spirits. The plaque of black marble was greeted with loud applause, as was Sean Keenan when he was introduced (before the election) as the area's next representative on Belfast City Council.

There was also a final high point when Malik and Judy from the Black delegation read out messages of support and solidarity for the struggle of the people of Ballymurphy and the Irish struggle against British imperialism.

Malik with a message of solidarity.

John Boyle O'Reilly, one of the greatest of all Irish Americans (who emigrated after the Fenian Uprising) wrote the poem that is reproduced below. It was written a hundred years ago, but is as valid today as it was then. It's amazing how little things have changed.....

A MESSAGE OF PEACE

There once was a pirate, greedy and bold,
Who ravaged for gain, and saved the spoils;
Till his coffers were bursting with blood-stained gold,
And millions of captives bore his toils.

Then fear took hold of him, and he cried:
'I have gathered enough; now, war should cease!'
And he sent out messengers far and wide
(To the strong ones only) to ask for peace.

'We are Christian brethren!' thus he spake;
'Let us seal a contract - never to fight!
Except against rebels who dare to break
The bonds we have made by the victor's right.'

And the strong ones listen; and some applaud
The kindly offer and righteous word;
With never a dream of deceit or fraud,
They would spike the cannon and break the sword.

But others, their elders, listen, and smile
At the sudden convert's unctuous style.
They watch for the peacemaker's change of way;
But his war-forges roar by night and by day.
Even now, while his godly messengers speak,
His guns are aflame on his enemies weak.
He has stolen the blade from the hand of his foe,
And he strikes the unarmed a merciless blow.

To the ends of the earth his oppression runs;
The rebels are blown from the mouths of his guns.
His war-tax devours his subject's food;
He taxes their evil and taxes their good;
He taxes their salt till he rots their blood.
He leaps on the friendless as on prey,
And slinks, tail-down, from the strong one's way.
The pharisee's cant goes up for peace;
But the cries of his victims never cease;
The stifled voices of brave men rise
From a thousand cells; while his rascal spies
Are spending their blood-money fast and free.

And this is the Christian to oversee
A world of evil! a saint to preach!
A holy well-doer come to teach!
A prophet to tell us war should cease!
A pious example of Christian peace!

DREAMS

All people dream,
But not equally.
Those who dream by night
In the dusty recesses of their minds
Wake in the day
To find that it was vanity.
But the dreamers of the day
Are dangerous people,
For they may act their dreams,
With open eyes,
To make it possible.

T.E. Lawrence.
(Lawrence of Arabia.)

RESSURECTION

The Rocklands Environmental Group has re-formed after an absence of almost 2 years. The group aims to right the environmental wrongs of Dermott Hill, New Barnsley, Moyard and Springfield Park by putting pressure on the Housing Executive, Dept. of The Environment and Belfast City Council.

A committee has been elected, the officers being: Mark Tuohy, Chairperson; Brian McLaughlin, Secretary; Una McQuillan, Vice Chairperson; Christine Bradley, Treasurer; Brian Sherlock, Assistant Treasurer; and Breda Bellew, Minutes Secretary.

Meetings are held fortnightly in Matt Talbott Youth Club, and anyone sharing the aims of the group is welcome to come along. If interested, contact any of the above through the Youth Club, Phone 230242.

RESOURCE MATERIAL

All material for the magazine should be dropped in at An t-Áisionad, 195 Bóthar Na Carraige Báine, Béal Feirste BT12 7FW.

games of yesteryear

Loretta, Maggie and Ann-Marie of the Young Women's Group laughing at the very idea that this was once a woman's lot. The times, they are a-changin'....

In tune for success!

Damian Crawford who works in the Spar was recently married to some poor unfortunate woman. Just before the event Damian's friends and colleagues banded together to give the lad a memorable send-off. As you can see from the photograph, he was very happy about this. Some passers-by commented that it was very odd that Damian wore no trousers, that they had never noticed this before (probably due to the long white coat he wears while behind the Spar counter). It is rumoured that the family had great difficulty forcing him into a state of respectable decency for the big event.

HEALTH VISITORS

In the May issue of RESOURCE, we reported on the disruption that has plagued Health Visiting services in West Belfast over the course of the past five years. In that period a total of 37 changes of personnel have taken place in just 8 of the districts in that area, the worst being Turf Lodge which has had 7 changes in 5 years, four of those taking place in the past 18 months!

As a result of the concern raised by the above figures, and the feeling that the Health Visiting service should provide something more confidential and constant than a continuous stream of changing faces, the Resource Centre wrote to several levels of management within the Eastern Health & Social Services Board. We asked that all unnecessary movement of staff be curtailed forthwith and we asked for a meeting with the Director of Nursing Services.

On Friday, May 17th a meeting took place at 8 Old Cavehill Road, the offices of the North & West Belfast Community Unit of Management. It was attended by Miss Orr, Director of Nursing Services, Miss O'Sullivan, the Assistant Chief Administrative Nursing Officer for the Board, Ciaran De Baroid, Community Worker at the Resource Centre, Desi Johnston, Chairperson of Moyard Housing Action Committee and Resource Centre Treasurer, and Eileen Hay, Secretary of the Springfield One-parent Family Group and local Welfare Rights Worker.

The 'meeting' turned out to be an illuminating experience of how the Health Visiting service views its public accountability. The delegation from the Resource Centre was greeted with an immediate, prepared attack for daring to question the role of the Health Visiting service. It was obvious that Miss O'Sullivan who led the attack, was under the impression that she was dealing with a handful of errant children. The delegation was told that they had no right to represent Health Visiting staff. They answered that they were not representing anyone's staff, but were representing the community of the Upper Springfield. At this point a letter was thrust at Mr De Baroid. It had been signed by 10 Health Visitors and is reproduced below. The delegation again explained who they were and that they had no interest in this letter, at which point it was pushed in Mr De Baroid's face with orders to 'Read it! Read it to your colleagues.' The delegation rose in anger at this and a heated exchange followed, during which Miss O'Sullivan accused the three community representatives of attempting to facilitate 'child-molesting and the murder of children'! This outburst was prompted by last month's RESOURCE article, a photocopy of which was produced. Realising that no avenue existed to allow reasonable discussion of the issues related to the disruption of Health Visiting services, the delegation walked out, and reported back to the Resource Centre.

Below we reproduce the letter that was thrust in Mr De Baroid's face, and later mailed to the Resource Centre. We also reproduce the Centre's reply which was sent to each of the individuals concerned.

At the time of writing, the issues central to the dispute still remain undiscussed and unresolved.

Letter from Cupar St. Clinic:

'Dear Mr De Baroid,

It has come to our attention that you have been using our names and profession (without prior discussion or consultation) in forwarding correspondence to our employer and other disciplins (sic)

GO ON DEFENSIVE

within this district. We are most concerned that you should have taken such action and wish to inform you that you are not speaking for us on such matters and also that we wish to disassociate ourselves from all such correspondence from your department.

Yours sincerely,

Maureen Lambe, Health Visitor.
Mary Ward, Health Visitor.
Mairead Mitchell, Health Visitor.
R. McAleenan, Health Visitor.
L. Clarke, Health Visitor.
Una Convery, Health Visitor.
Anne Daly, Health Visitor.
Maureen Savage, Health Visitor.
Ann Nelson, Health Visitor.
C. Boyle, Health Visitor.'

The Resource Centre replied:

'Dear (each signatory),

The letter, dated April 25th and signed by yourself and a number of your colleagues, was read at the last meeting of the Resource Centre with a certain amount of disbelief. Perhaps you are unaware of the extent of the problem on which we have been 'forwarding correspondence'. We refer to the ongoing disruption of Health Visiting services in West Belfast. If you are unaware, then it is a measure of the communication that is lacking within your own discipline; and your letter writing might more fruitfully be directed at your own organisation so that you can be better informed. If you are aware of the extent of the problem, then it is to your shame that you have not come out in wholehearted support of our efforts on behalf of the community we represent. (We are an umbrella organisation of all 53 community groups in the Upper Springfield.)

We were astonished that you and your colleagues who signed the letter were 'concerned' at our actions, but not at all, apparently, 'concerned' about the problem we are trying to tackle. It perhaps crystallises a division of interests in relation to this matter...?

Also, you seem to be very badly informed. We are not, and never have been, 'speaking for' you. We have made it clear from the very beginning that we are speaking on behalf of the community groups we represent. Your desire to 'disassociate' yourself 'from all such correspondence' (presumably you have read the 'all such correspondence') is therefore somewhat odd. However, we shall convey your wishes to the local community.

Yours sincerely,

Ciaran De Baroid.
Community Worker.'

And so develops a simple call for public accountability....

Plans for holidays

Ballymurphy Youth Club has planned a Summer Camp in the Roe Valley Country Park in Co. Derry for the month of July. During each of the 4 weeks, Youth Workers will be taking a different age-group of club members to the camp. The programme will be as follows:

July 1st - 5th ..... 9 - 11s
July 8th - 12th ..... 12 & 13s
July 15th - 19th ..... 14 & 15s
July 22nd - 26th ..... 16 plus.

The cost for each individual will be £12 for the week. If two children from the same family wish to go, a special rate of £20 will cover both.

The maximum number we can accomodate each week will be 15; so please book early to avoid disappointment. All enquiries to Sean Mullin at the Youth Club any night except Saturday.

THE BLACK DELEGATION RETURNS

Cecil and Pragma arriving at Whiterock Community Centre, which was used as a meals centre during the visit of the Black delegation.

the visit

Between 10th and 13th May, the Upper Springfield played host to a 26-strong delegation from the Black community in Britain. Among them were a number of old friends from last year's delegation. The group were here to gather information first-hand about the situation in the six counties, and to express solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland. Many thanks to all those in the area who made their visit such a resounding success.

West Belfast MP Gerry Adams being urged to sign autographs after he is unexpectedly encountered by the delegation during the memorial night for dead volunteers.

Judy and Vernon - thumbs up!

Winston and Rajani looking over the edge of things.

During their visit, the Black delegation met with various groups involved in the anti-British struggle, including the anti-'supergrass' groups, the Stop The Strip-searching Committee, the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets, Sinn-Fein, local community activists, the Falls Women's Centre, the Divis Joint Development Committee and representatives of the Resource Centre. They also attended at the memorial night for the families of volunteers killed in action and at the unveiling of the plaque in Ballymurphy. The whole visit was rounded off by a folk night in the Sloans which was followed by a party in the Resource Centre where 200 people blew the roof off until 5 o'clock in the morning, with the last stragglers hanging in until 7.30 a.m. All who were touched by the visit agreed that it was one hell of a week-end!

The Black community in Britain suffer the exact same type of oppression as we do; and they are organising as a community in order to defend against the very same imperialism that takes the form of guns and armoured cars on our streets. To build up solidarity links with them is to unite in struggle with our brothers and sisters. We intend to continue with the process, possibly with a trip to London.

Amin, Sanjay and Shammi talking to some locals after the plaque at Ballymurphy is unveiled.

Disco Bopping Rave

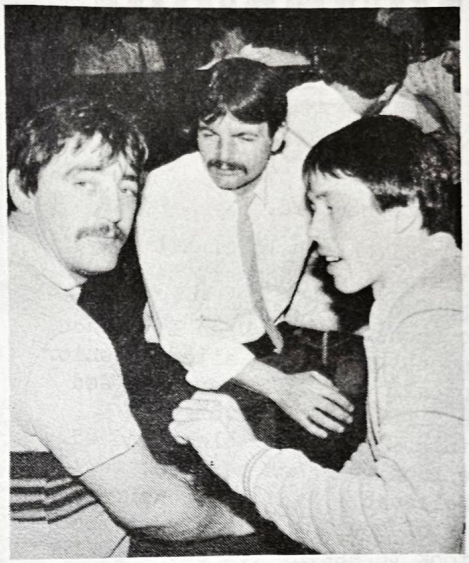
The main hall in the Community Centre was packed to capacity by a crowd of almost 300 young people, either watching or participating in a brilliant disco dancing competition. Organised by Brian O'Kelly and Neighbourhood Community Worker, Alanagh Rea, the competition went on for almost three hours on Saturday, June 8th.

The talent on display was incredible, and the team of three judges had a difficult and unenviable task in picking winners. The list below was their final decision:

Under 12 Team	St John's Youth Club
Under 12 Individual	B. Miller (Divis)
Under 15 Team	Carrigart Youth Club
Under 15 Individual	M. Vance (St Michael's Y.C.)
Best Overall Costume	Esther Toner.

The colourful and exciting scene at Whiterock Community Centre during the disco dancing competition.

Damian Fogarty from Dublin who recently completed a student placement at the Upper Springfield Resource Centre. Damian accompanied the Black delegation to the Crescent Centre in Lower Crescent on the Saturday night of their stay. At the end of the evening, Pragma sang two songs and rounded off with a clenched fist and 'Tiocfaidh ár lá!' Damian has since been sneaking around Belfast.



Micky Brady, Jim Moody and Martin Morris. Micky stares in disbelief as Martin explains patiently that spaghetti does NOT grow on trees, contrary to the opinion put forward by Micky at the Sloan's quiz on Monday 10th June.

Jim, as you can see, is trying to make up his mind as to which version is the truth.

FOR A SONG

Susie Vallelly and Maureen McGuinness give a rendering of 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star' as Jim Moody, Danny McGuinness, Bernie McKeavney and Shammi look on.

LETTERS

St. Paul's F.C.,
c/o 32 Whitecliff Cres.
Belfast BT12 7JR.
Ph: 225816

To all concerned,

May I on behalf of all players, and myself as manager, take this opportunity to thank all those who sponsored us. When I took on the job of looking after a senior football team, I never realised the difficulties involved . Things looked very bleak indeed. The running costs per week were unbelievable, and the requirements of equipment were huge. So I took to asking for sponsorship from my local shops, clubs and business people. The response I got was fantastic, so this letter is a credit to all those people. As there are too many to mention individually, I hope they will accept this expression of my utmost appreciation and deepest thanks for enabling us to continue for another season. Also, thanks to Michael Crawford of Whiterock Spar for sponsoring a team kit.

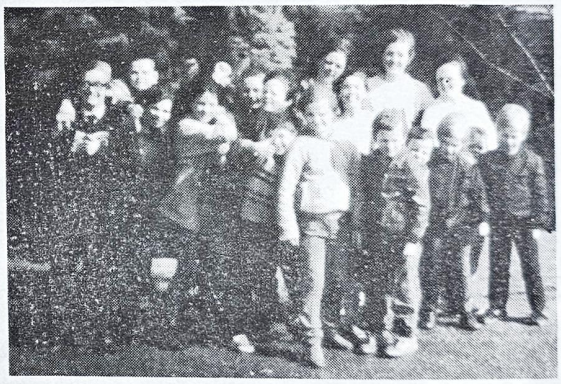
Thanks from all at St. Paul's Football Club.

Yours in sport,
John McCrystal,
Manager.

holiday notes

The Upper Springfield Children's Holiday Scheme organised a week's holiday for a group of 21, including helpers, from 5th - 12th April at B Beltrim Cottages, Gortin, Omagh. The group had an enjoyable time despite some very bad weather. The St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Order of Malta arranged trips to a film and to the American Folk Park.

A change in our proposed holiday programme for July to Omeath: the numbers are now 40 children and 20 supervisors for a week (6th - 13th) instead of 40 on each of two weeks. This is necessary due to lack of finance and the difficulties of staffing a two-week holiday. The children who will be going to Omeath can look forward to trips to Dublin, Blackrock, dundalk, Warrenpoint etc.



The group at Beltrim Cottages.

glór na ngael

The West Belfast Committee of Glór Na nGael was set up in 1982 to act as an umbrella for Irish language groups and activists in the area, and to enter the district in the national Glór Na nGael competition held annually.

Since 1982 West Belfast has been awarded major prizes in this competition in recognition of the efforts made by groups and individuals in the area to promote the Irish language. At present the Committee is compiling a report for entry into this year's competition. If you or your group has done work over the past year to promote the language in West Belfast, and would like this work to be included in the report, please contact the Committee at the address below as soon as possible.

Is mise le meas,
Máirtín Mac Aoidh.

c/o Twinbrook Community Flat,
1a, Bealach Sheasmaine,
(Jasmine Way)
Cill Uaidhe (Twinbrook),
Béal Feirste BT17 OBU.

Stage 1 Success

The successful students from this year's Stage 1 Course in Youth & Community Work, organised by the Resource Centre. Left to right: Tim, Donal, Mary, Bernie, Marie, Jim, Vera, Fergal, Betty, Margaret, Mary, Ciss (with the guitar) and Ann.

'HANDICAB'

Since 20th May a new transport service for the disabled has been available in Belfast. 'Handicab' is a door to door transport service, using a specially adapted vehicle for up to six passengers, two of whom can be in wheelchairs. It is available for social outings, visits to the theatre, hairdresser or library.

'Handicab' is the most recent addition to the Transport Service run by The Northern Ireland Council For The Handicapped, who wish to highlight the fact that many disabled people are denied the right to use buses and trains as they are not accessible to them. Further information from: Robin Mullan at 640011 or 665240.

You can write to the Council at:

2, Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3JR.

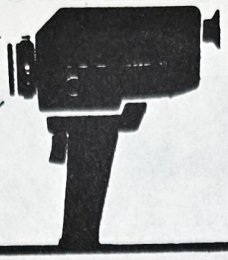
NEW FAMILY CENTRE

The new Family Centre on Whiterock Road is getting off the ground with an ambitious and varied programme. Among the facilities provided so far are: support for families who may be experiencing difficulties and feel that some outside help might be of benefit; a Lunch Club for senior citizens on Wednesdays from 10.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.; a Drop-in facility on Mondays and Thursdays from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. where a cup of tea, toys for the kids and a 'Nearly New' shop are available; a Girls' Group every Thursday night; and rooms for use by the community.

There are also many leaflets available on all sorts of topics related to health and people's rights.

Plans for the future include the setting up of various support groups for people who are tackling specific problems within the community, the establishment of an information bank, and working with local women to establish a network of support to complement what already exists in the area. Further information from any of the staff or from the Resource Centre.

FOCUS on Women



PORNOGRAPHY

One women's movement slogan says, 'Pornography - the theory; rape - the practice'.

Pornography, like rape is violence against women. Its images give insight into the attitudes underlying violence. In pornography we see clearly and brutally the expression and reinforcement of the dominant mode - which is the exercise of power as a projection of sexual dominance. Pornography is not about eroticism, but about sadism. Consider the following description of a photograph which appeared in an American magazine. 'A woman's naked torso and legs,spreadeagled at the bottom of the page, her head out of sight. Above her, between her legs, stands a clothed workman with a pneumatic drill. He appears to be inserting the drill into her vagina.

The caption is 'A cure for frigidity!

This type of image can only be thought of as 'sexual' in a culture where sexuality has become identified with violence. Its purpose is to show women humiliated, powerless, at the mercy of men, depersoned, robbed of their bodies and wills. 'The major theme of pornography as a genre is male power, its nature, its magnitude, its uses, its meaning .... degradation of the female is the means of actualising this power', writes Andrea Dworkin in Pornography: Men Possessing Women.

Pornography is not bought by a small pathetic minority. Estimates of Britains readership of pornographic magazines vary, but it appears that between 35% and 65% of men read them. And pornography is not harmless fantasy. Real women are abused in the making of it; real women suffer the consequences of its underlying attitudes, in rape, battering and harassment.

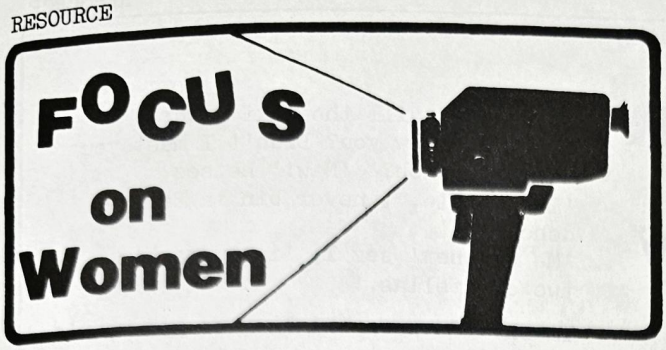
SEXUAL HARASSMENT

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORK IS NOT A NEW PROBLEM.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT has been described as 'any repeated and unwanted sexual comments, looks, suggestions, or physical contact that you find objectionable or causes you discomfort in your job'.

Sexual advances made by men in positions of authority can threaten the job security, career prospects and job satisfaction of women workers. Men often see their behaviour as'harmless fun'and complain that women do not have a sense of humour and want to take the fun out of life - 'making a fuss about nothing'.

Women, however are not objecting to a relationship based on mutual consent. Sexual harassment. though, is the exercise of male power at the workplace and reflects the male dominated society in which we live.

Some of the effects of sexual harassment can include the following; anxiety and tension, fear and frustration. Headaches, indigestion and nervous disorders can result, and in extreme cases, severe cases depression. As well as health risks, the woman's ability to do her job is in jeopardy. This can sometimes result in her being sacked.
Sexual harassment is an issue that must be tackled and eliminated.



LOCAL WOMEN IN PROFILE.

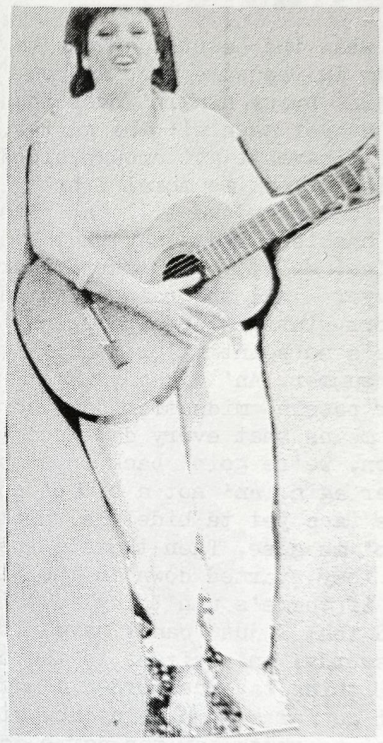
Ciss Carabine was born in Ballymurphy one of a large family. After leaving school she worked in the Fruit Shop in the old Bull Ring in Ballymurphy for a number of years. She is now married with two children.

She became involved in youth work when she was quite young herself, and was instrumental in organising summer trips in the mid sixties for children from areas such as the Lower Falls.

In the early '70's Ciss helped to organise a play group for the children and mothers in the area. Along with Tess Cahill and Ann Marie Hartigan she provided voluntary assistance in the running of the scheme. She continued her involvement until the N.S.P.C.C became involved and provided funds for paid workers to be employed.

With two young children to look after Ciss' activities in the Community Work field were curtailed somewhat. In the last few years however Ciss has now found the time to become involved in local issues once more. She has been Secretary of the Ballymurphy Tenants Association for some time now and is also active on the Management Committee of the Ballymurphy Youth Club.

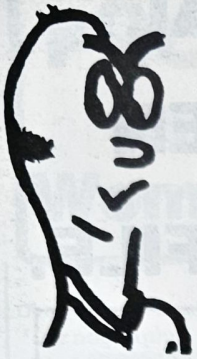
Working with the Tenants Association has meant Ciss getting involved in discussions with the Housing Executive about various issues concerning the housing situation in Ballymurphy. Through her work on the Youth Club committee she has assisted in many fund-raising activities the latest of which is Bingo sessions which are held each Monday and Friday. These have been found to be very successful and are bringing in much needed revenue to the Club.



CISS CARABINE IN BUOYANT MOOD.

Ciss is currently working part-time in Curley's Supermarket and has just recently finished the Stage I Youth and Community Course organised by the Resource Centre, with a residential weekend held at Hampton. She is also taking part in some of the classes which are taking place locally and is particularly interested in the Cookery classes which are going on in Corpus Christi.

Ciss has also been a member of the Resource Centre Management Committee and hopes to remain active in local community issues.



Guernin' Barney Sez...

Look what the bawstards done ta me, put me in the same page as yon friggin' hussy hangin' over the sofa at yer mawn wi' the guitar. As if I haven't got enough bloody hassles wi'out me moral fibre bein' dragged down till the pits. What hassles? Didja say what hassles! Well, fer a start, there's the wyer - all the rain an' wind an' orr wintry stuff what means there's no point in pretendin' it's summer. An' already it's after passin' midsummer day, so that means that every day from now on, we're goin' back inta the winter agin. An' not a bit o' colour on me face yet ta hide the whiskey red o' me nose. Then there's the quiz they started down in the Sloans. Now, if there's wan thing in this world that I jus' can't have, it's crosswords; an' quizzes is the next worst thing ta crosswords! A mawn can't go fer a quiet pint now wi'out havin' ta shush fer the darts, or hush while some drunken Mario Lanzo is deafenin' his ears, or listen ta all the eejits of the day tryin' ta answer quizzes about things what more 'n likely never happened anyway. So, don't ask me what hassles I got.

* * *

But there's a wee bit o' fun too, watchin' all them looney tunes in the councils an' the way they're carryin' on like spoilt childer. I'm talkin' about them Unionists o' course. 'Twas some election alright. I wus comin' up the Falls in a black hack on the day they wus countin' an' I sez till the taxi mawn, 'How's the election goin'?' An' he jus sez '41' An' I suppose that sez a lot about the elections.

Then I sez till the taxi mawn: 'Don't I know you? Didn't I meet you in Ballydehob?' 'Naw!' he sez, 'Impossible, I never bin ta Ballydehob.'
'Me neither' sez I, 'it musta bin two orr fellas.'

Ya shoulda seen the look on yer mawn's kisser!

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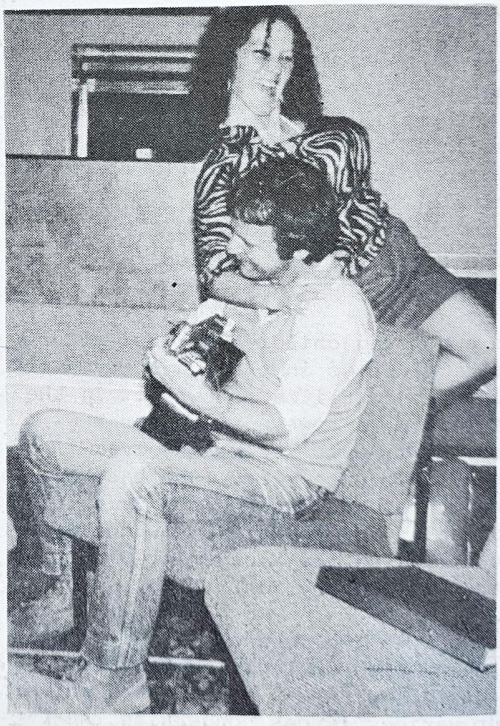
Oh! An' in case I forgets: this month's 'Bawstard of The Month' award goes to whoever stole Sandya's camera. She wus on the Black delegation an' had it nicked on the day she wus goin' home - from the hall o' the Resource Centre. Any info very welcome.



Betty Kelly from Westrock trying to share an inflated fantasy of her natural endowments with Ciaran during the Hampton week-end. In an unmistakeable sign of a good upbringing, Ciaran continues to play the guitar.